

Climate Review for the month March 2017

Presented by:
National Weather Service
Newport/Morehead City

March 2017 Summary

After an unusually warm and record-breaking February, March was actually cooler than February for most of eastern North Carolina. An upper-level trough remained in place over the eastern United States for most of the month keeping temperatures below normal. A light snow event occurred on March 12, producing up to an inch of snow in portions of Duplin and Onslow Counties. Later in the month, a supercell storm produced hail up to 2 inches in diameter over Jones County on March 28, 2017.



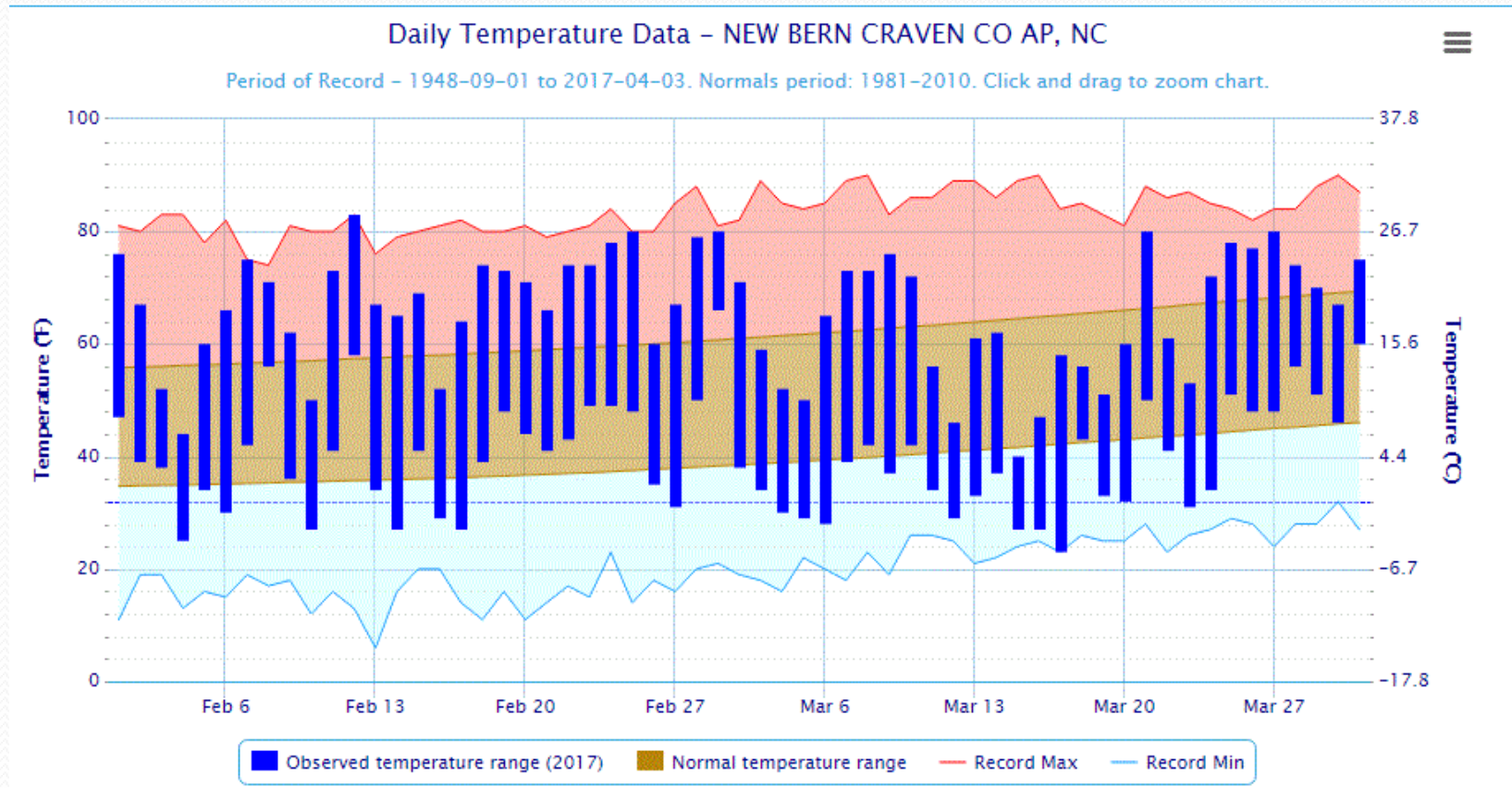
Light dusting of snow in Pitt County on March 12, 2017.



Large Hail in Jones County, March 28, 2017

DISCLAIMER : The climate data provided are preliminary and have not undergone final quality control by NCDC. Therefore...this data is subject to revision.

February vs. March Temperature



A look at February and March 2017 temperatures at New Bern, NC. Note many more days below the normal daily temperature range in March than in February.

Average Temperatures within our CWA in March 2017

	Avg Max	Avg_Max Normal	Avg_ Min	Avg_Min Normal
Beaufort	60.7	61.9	42.2	44.4
Cape Hatteras	61.8	58.6	46.4	44.6
New Bern	64.4	64.9	39.3	42.0
Greenville	63.4	64.1	39.5	40.8
Kinston	63.7	63.8	35.8	38.7
Williamston	62.4	62.4	39.3	39.6
Plymouth	63.5	64.5	39.6	40.6
Bayboro	63.4	64.9	38.8	40.7

Both maximum and minimum temperatures were below normal across the region in March 2017. Interestingly, March mean temperatures were colder than February at almost all locations.

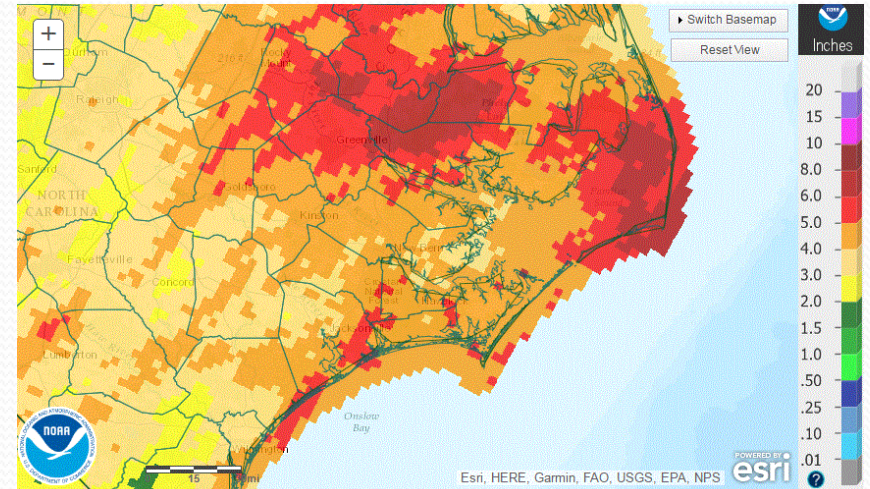
Max and Min Temperature within our CWA in March 2017.

	MAX	MIN
Beaufort	76	30
Cape Hatteras	78	30
New Bern	80	23
Greenville	82	24
Kinston	82	22
Williamston	81	26
Plymouth	81	23
Bayboro	79	27

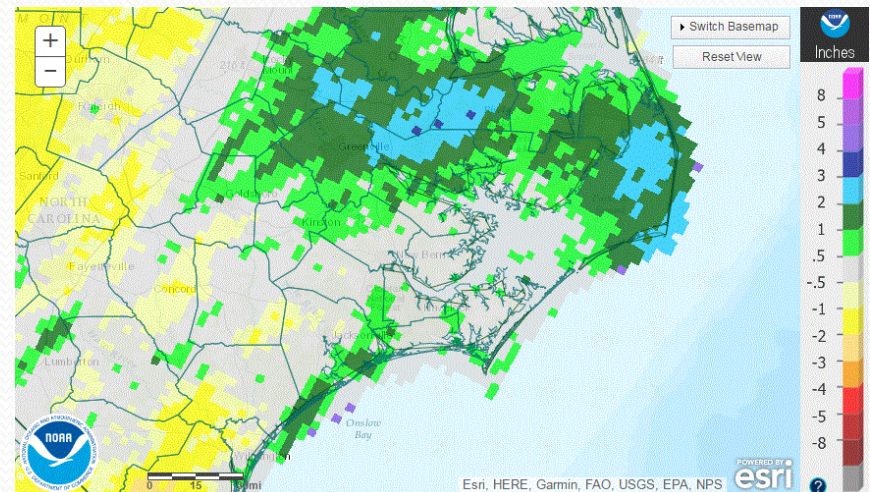
March 2017 Rain Versus Climate Normal

	Precipitation (inches)	Normal	Difference
Beaufort	M	3.20	
Cape Hatteras	5.28	4.77	0.51
New Bern	4.03	4.39	-0.36
Greenville	4.71	4.04	0.67
Kinston	2.76	3.85	-1.11
Williamston	3.94	4.12	-0.18
Plymouth	5.66	4.37	1.29
Bayboro	3.61	4.00	-0.39

Rainfall in March was heaviest across the far northern counties and Outer Banks (one to two inches above normal), with drier conditions over the far southwestern counties (over an inch below normal).

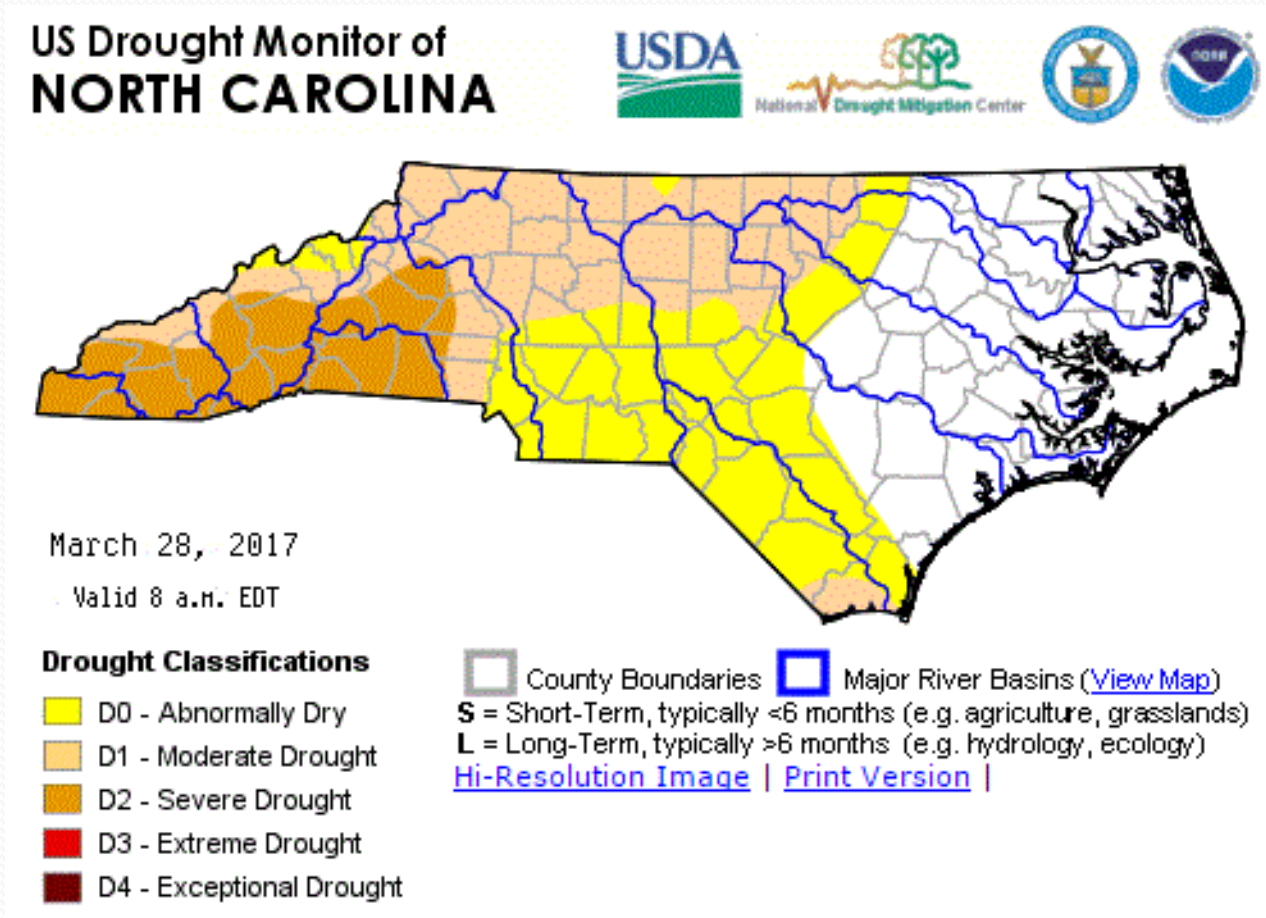


Observed March 2017 Rainfall



March 2017 Departure from Normal

Latest Drought Monitor for North Carolina



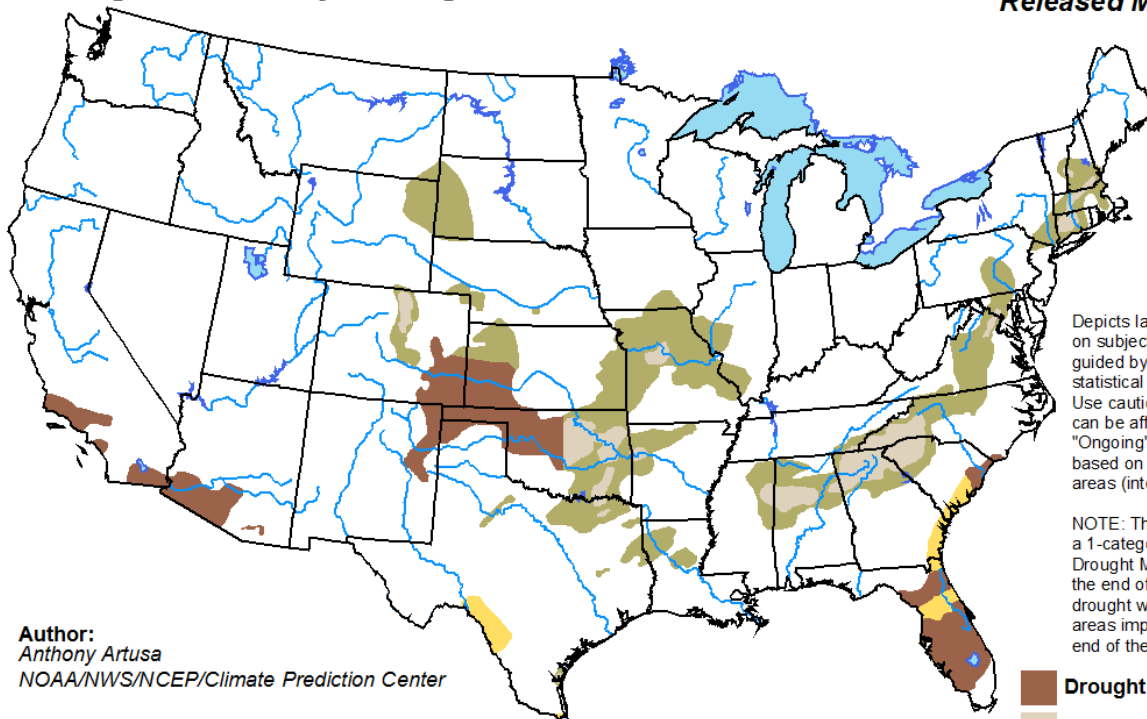
While eastern North Carolina remains in good shape, severe drought continues in the western North Carolina mountains.

Monthly Drought Outlook

For April

U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period





Valid for April 2017
Released March 31, 2017

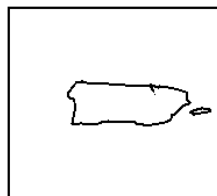
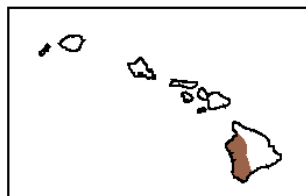
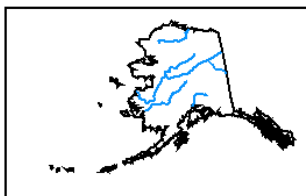


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Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

-  Drought persists
-  Drought remains but improves
-  Drought removal likely
-  Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZGd>